REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of remarks herewith.

I.   STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 2-4, 8, 9, 11-13, 17, 18, 20-22, 26, 27, 29-31, and 35-37 are pending in this application. Claims 2, 4, 9, 11, 13, 18, 20, 22, 27, 29, 31, and 36, which are independent, are hereby amended. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the specification and, specifically, in at least Fig. 12 and paragraphs 185-187 of the published application. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to these claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II.   REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 2, 4, 8, 9, 11, 13, 18, 20, 22, 26, 27, 29, 31, and 35-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,160,553 to Robertson et al. (hereinafter, merely "Robertson"), in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,987,469 to Lewis et al. (hereinafter, merely "Lewis").

Claims 3, 12, 21, and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Robertson in view of Lewis and in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,761,655 to Hoffman (hereinafter, merely "Hoffman").

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III. RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS

Claim 2 recites, *inter alia*:

"...<u>wherein a number of the plurality of areas within the generated image data are proportional to the size of said non-image data so as to increase the number of the plurality of areas the display area is divided into when the size of the said non-image data is larger and to decrease the number of the plurality of areas the display area is divided into when the size of the said non-image data is smaller, and</u>

<u>wherein each pixel of the generated image is related to a specific character of the non-image data</u>..." (Emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, Robertson relates to a graphical user interface in which object thumbnails are rendered on a simulated three-dimensional surface which exploits spatial memory and allows more objects to be rendered on a given screen.

As understood by Applicants, Lewis relates to a method and apparatus for displaying nested rectangles which graphically illustrate the directories and files located in a storage medium such as a computer hard disk or the nodes of a tree data structure. The sizes of the rectangles are proportional to the size of the directory or the file they represent.

As understood by Applicants, Hoffman relates to a system which creates, stores, retrieves and displays thumbnail images.

Applicant submits that neither Robertson nor Lewis nor Hoffman, taken alone or in combination, teach or suggest the above identified features of claim 2. Specifically, neither of the references used as a basis for rejection describe <u>a number of the plurality of areas within the generated image data are proportional to the size of said non-image data so as to increase the number of the plurality of areas the display area is divided into when the size of the said non-image data is larger and to decrease the number of the plurality of areas the display area is</u>

divided into when the size of the said non-image data is smaller, and each pixel of the generated image is related to a specific character of the non-image data, as recited in claim 2.

Applicants note that the Office Action concedes that Robertson fails to teach or suggest a display method wherein a number of a plurality of areas are proportional to the size of non-image data so as to increase the number of the plurality of areas the display area is divided into when the size of the said non-image data is larger and to decrease the number of the plurality of areas the display area is divided into when the size of the said non-image data is smaller.

Applicants respectfully submit that the portions of Lewis relied on, specifically column 3, lines 52-58, do not teach or disclose the above identified features of claim 2. Specifically, Lewis does not teach or suggest a display method wherein a number of the plurality of areas within the generated image data are proportional to the size of the non-image data so as to increase the number of the plurality of areas the display area is divided into when the size of the non-image data is larger and to decrease the number of the plurality of areas the display area is divided into when the size of the non-image data is smaller.

As exemplified in at least Fig. 12 and paragraphs 186-187 of the published application, the present invention teaches a number of a plurality of areas within a generated image data as being proportional to the size of the non-image data. The *overall* size or proportion of the generated image data does not necessarily change when the size of the non-image data is larger or smaller. Indeed, a number of the plurality of areas *within* the generated image data are divided to be proportional to the size of the non-image data so as to increase the number of the plurality of areas the display area is divided into when the size of the non-image data is larger and to decrease the number of the plurality of areas the display area is divided into when the size of the non-image data is smaller. Applicants respectfully point to Fig. 12 of the

present invention which represents image data of three, separate non-image data files. In Fig. 12, a large non-image data file on the right is represented as an image with an increased number of plurality of areas in the display area, as compared to a small non-image data file on the left, which is represented as an image with a decreased number of the plurality of areas in the display area.

To the contrary, Lewis teaches away from the present invention in that, as described in column 3, lines 52-58, as cited by the Examiner, Lewis includes the steps of tiling the viewing area with nested rectangles whose *areas* are proportional to the size of data files, i.e. the overall size of the rectangle will change based on the size of the data file. Applicants respectfully point to Fig. 1 of Lewis which shows different sized rectangles in proportion to different sized files, in stark contrast to Fig. 12 of the present invention.

Furthermore, Applicants submit that nothing has been found in Lewis that the image to be set to the thumbnail 201 may be generated on the basis of a specific character of the non-image data, such as the spectrum corresponding to audio data (See, Specification Page 37-38, paragraph [0185]). So, Lewis fails to teach or suggest each pixel of the generated image is related to a specific character of the non-image data, as recited in claim 2.

Therefore, independent claim 2 is patentable.

For reasons similar to those described above with regard to independent claim 2, independent claims 4, 9, 11, 13, 18, 20, 22, 27, 29, 31, and 36 are patentable.

IV.   DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims are dependent from an independent claim, discussed above, and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is

also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual

reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.
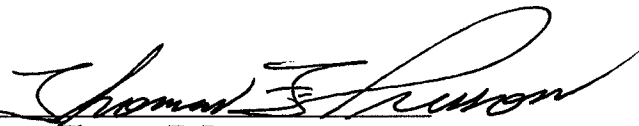

CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of the statements appearing above

with respect to the disclosures in the cited reference, or references, it is respectfully requested

that the Examiner specifically indicate the portion, or portions, of the reference, or references,

providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any

overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the

claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to

issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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